

## **“I Am the Light of the World” – He Pierces the Darkness**

09-14-14

I'm glad to have all of you here for the second week of our series called "I AM JESUS." In John's Gospel, there were 7 different times where Jesus said "I Am", and then He gives a different characteristic of who He is.

Last week, we began with Jesus saying, *“I Am the Bread of Life.”* Jesus provides for us out of His love for us. All we have comes through Him. Jesus is the giver of all things. Everything we need comes from His Almighty hand.

Open to John 8 and look at Jesus' I Am statement in verse 12, *“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”* Look what He focuses on in relation to light and darkness. He says, *“I am the light of the world.”* Anyone who's following Him He says they *“will never walk in darkness.”* And then as they follow, their life will not be in darkness but they will have *“the light of life.”*

If you follow Jesus, you'll never walk in darkness, which is a good thing, because darkness is scary! How many of you, as a kid, you were afraid of the dark? How many of you say now, *“I'm not a kid anymore. I'm a grownup, and I'm still afraid of the dark!”* When I was a kid, all I needed was a night light. You give me a night light and I'm fine! A little bit of light changes everything!

I brought this flashlight with me this morning since I'm talking about light. I was going to tell the ushers to turn out all the lights so my flashlight would shed some light on this place. But in the morning, there's so much ambient light in the sanctuary, we could probably handle the entire service without any additional light!

My family thinks I'm nuts sometimes because I never turn lights on. At night, I just walk in the dark. I used to do the same thing at my school and office. I'd walk all around the building and never turn a light on!

Jesus here is showing a real contrast here between light vs. darkness. The contrast is more than just the amount of physical light, it's a difference spiritually! All through Scripture, you can see the light contrasted with darkness. In the beginning, God spoke and said, *“Let there be light.”* And He separated the darkness from the light.

All through the Bible, God is called light. And our spiritual enemy, Satan, is called the Prince of Darkness. Paul said in Acts 26:17-18, *“delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God.”*

Jesus' statement about being the Light comes right after a story in John called the 'woman caught in adultery'. Let's apply Jesus' light into the darkness

of the sin in this story. Let's break it into three different parts, The Law, The Love, The Light, to make it easier to understand and see God's hand.

The Law reveals our guilt. Look at verses 2-5, *"Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?"*

As a Jew, adultery was one of the three worst sins, and it was punishable by stoning! If Jesus agrees that she should be stoned, He'd lose His reputation for not being loving like He said we should be. If Jesus forgives her. He'd be condoning adultery.

The Law reveals our guilt! We've lied, we've stolen, we've used God's name in vain. We're sinners each and every day! Unless we see ourselves as sinners, we won't see our need for a Savior!

The Love Reveals God's Grace. Look at verses 6b-8, *"Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground."*

This was the men's chance. They could make an example of this woman and show their power over the situations of sin. But when Jesus says whoever is sinless could throw a stone at her first, it pricked their consciences and those older who maybe had done the most wrong over the years were the first to leave.

Look at verses 9-11, *"But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."*

There's probably someone here who has a little bit of darkness in their life and shame over what they've done. When you're in Christ, you need to know that there's no condemnation for you as you walk in Christ. His grace changes everything! You're not what you did, you're not what they say you are, you're who God says you are!

The third thing is really the whole message, The Light reveals our Hope! No matter how dark your world seems right now, Jesus is the light. And in a moment of time, His light can illuminate your darkness, His grace can forgive your sins, His presence can bring healing to your shame. And you're never the same again, because when the light of the world becomes the light of your

world, and you follow Him, you never have to walk in darkness again. Your Savior is that good! He's truly the Light of the World!

John 12:46 says, "*I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.*" Nothing gives hope like light! Light always defeats darkness!

May this be your thought each and every day. Ask Jesus to forgive you, and make you brand new. Believe He died for you, and rose again so you could live for Him. Jesus is your Light. Follow Him always. Ask Him to help you never walk in darkness ever again. Thank Him for giving you grace and hope as you live for Him.